



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$35,000 Settlement Reached with Mineral King Minerals, Inc.

Sacramento --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has reached a settlement with Mineral King Minerals, Inc. (MKM) for hazardous waste violations at its facility at 10585 Industry Avenue in Hanford, Kings County.

Under terms of a Consent Order (Order), signed on December 30, 2004, MKM will pay a total of \$35,000, of which \$11,850 is administrative penalties, \$14,200 is for reimbursement of costs incurred by DTSC, and \$3,950 is for a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP payment is to be made to the California Environmental Protection Agencies Environmental Enforcement and Training Account.

The settlement stems from violations observed by DTSC inspectors during inspections at the facility on November 15, 2001 and January 29, 2003. The violations noted were:

- Failing to maintain and operate the MKM facility to minimize the possibility of any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents
- Storing hazardous waste tank bottom sludge from zinc sulfate production, in a waste pile at the facility without authorization from DTSC
- Failing to manage a waste pile of hazardous waste tank bottom sludge from zinc sulfate production to prevent or control wind dispersion of the hazardous waste
- Failing to provide containment or protection from rain for a waste pile containing hazardous waste bottom sludge from zinc sulfate production

As part of the settlement, DTSC will reduce MKM's original penalty of \$35,000 by \$5,000 if at least three of its employees obtain certificates of satisfactory completion of hazardous waste management courses at the California Compliance School (CCS). CCS provides students with "hands-on" instruction on how to comply with hazardous waste statutes and regulations. MKM must submit the certificates of satisfactory completion to DTSC within 180 days of the effective date of the Order. If all the certificates are not received by DTSC within the 180 days, the entire remaining balance of \$5,000 shall then become immediately due and payable.

MKM has corrected all violations noted during the inspection.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.